

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



A Publication of the Missions Sector for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

Dear brothers, dear friends,

Enlightened by the Strenna 2016, with Jesus, we continue along this missionary journey with the Spirit. For this reason the Rector Major has invited us this year to **denounce** boldly what prevents people from recognising, contemplating and taking advantage of his presence in our world. In our Salesian education of young people we do not always orient and encourage this very concrete dimension of social charity. The witness of life of missionary communities is the first and most eloquent denunciation. While the world suggests indifference and exclusion, these communities, in turn, testify acceptance and inclusion. We think again, for example, of the sacrifice through martyrdom of our young **Akash Bashir**, in Pakistan: it was a clear denunciation of all forms of religious intolerance.

Let us continue the adventure of the Spirit!

G. Basañes

Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the Missions

IN THE MERCIFUL HEART OF JESUS ALL INFIRMITIES FIND HEALING

In God's mercy, all of our infirmities find healing. His mercy, in fact, does not keep a distance: it seeks to encounter all forms of poverty and to free this world of so many types of slavery. Mercy desires to reach the wounds of all, to heal them. Being apostles of mercy means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters. Curing these wounds, we profess Jesus, we make him present and alive; we allow others, who touch his mercy with their own hands, to recognize him as "Lord and God" (Jn 20,28), as did the Apostle Thomas. This is the mission that he entrusts to us. So many people ask to be listened to and to be understood. The Gospel of mercy, to be proclaimed and written in our daily lives, seeks people with patient and open hearts, "good Samaritans" who understand compassion and silence before the mystery of each brother and sister. The Gospel of mercy requires generous and joyful servants, people who love freely without expecting anything in return.

Pope Francis

Homily, Feast of the Divine Mercy, 3 April 2016



WITH THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE I DISCOVER MORE AND MORE THE CALL OF GOD FOR ME



My missionary religious life *ad gentes* started in a similar way to the call of God made to Samuel. With the advice of Eli, the child Samuel has recognised God's call to him: "*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening*" (1Sam3,9).

Since childhood, I recognised a particular call, but did not know who is calling me and to what I am called to. During the years of the aspirantate, the pre-novitiate, novitiate and post-novitiate, I had many opportunities to hear news about the missionary life of Salesian missionaries and I was wondering if one day I could be a Salesian missionary, too. In the novitiate, I expressed my missionary desire to the Novice Master, and then, during my three years of philosophy, I always spoke with the Rector about this desire to be a missionary *ad gentes*, and he

guided me and accompanied to discern my Salesian missionary vocation.

In 2012, the Rector Major sent me to Venezuela and after 6 months of the studying Spanish, I was sent to the Amazonas and there I worked for two years as a practical trainee. My life among indigenous peoples was marked by one surprise after another because of the difference in food, the language, the things of ordinary daily life, in a word, because of the cultural difference. I experienced culture shock during my first months living in the new culture, things have happened in a way that I have never imagined in my life.

Before going to the Amazonas, many people have advised me not to be scared of culture shock, but when I experienced it, it caused me a lot of stress due to difficulties in speaking, in talking, in communicating ... in the new language.

Day after day, with the help and the animation of the Salesian confreres, with the closeness and welcome on the part of the people in the Amazonas, I made the effort to deal with this shock and, above all, I re-read my diary which I wrote during the course for new missionaries in Rome in September 2011. I went through it again, reflected and shared my experiences and my reflections. These have helped me to stay calm in difficult moments. Gradually I was able to calmly deal with culture shock and clearly recognise the infinite grace of God for me; He is always with me in all situations and circumstances. I am convinced that the life of prayer and union with God are really important because they are the sources of the motivations that help us through the difficult moments of our lives.

I feel happy and satisfied as a missionary amongst the Piarora and Jiva: the indigenous peoples in the Amazonas. "*The Salesian missionary takes on the values of these people and share their hopes and anxieties*" (Const. 30). I recognise that the culture of these people is a rich and impressive. They have been a part of my missionary life. As I journey with them I also discover more and more the call of God for me. .

Cl. José Phan Anh Tuan
Vietnamese, missionary in the Amazonas, Venezuela



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Postulator General for the Causes of Saints

The Servant of God, Anna Maria Lozano (1883-1982), cofounder with Blessed Luigi Variara of the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts, writes in a circular letter of 1968: "*The Divine Heart of Jesus is ready to fill us with his love and of his great mercy. We feel every day more and more the protection and infinite tenderness of the Most Holy Heart of Jesus. We must respond generously!* «Love is paid with love»".



Salesian Missionary Intention

That all the houses of formation in the whole Congregation may draw inspiration from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This is a very solid tradition among us, but the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus of all those in formation and formators and every house of formation, also needs to be re-launched. Missionaries have brought this conviction and this heritage to every continent. It is therefore urgent that all young confreres in initial formation learn to find in the Heart of Jesus as the source and model of their religious consecration and their missionary zeal as the sons of Don Bosco.

